

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Membership Balance Plan for the
FEDERAL ECONOMIC STATISTICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- (1) Name: Federal Economic Statistics Advisory Committee
- (2) Authority: The Secretary of Commerce, having determined that it is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed by law on the U.S. Department of Commerce, and with the concurrence of the General Services Administration, hereby establishes within the Economics and Statistics Administration (ESA) the Federal Economic Statistics Advisory Committee, in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.
- (3) Mission/Function: The Committee advises the Directors of ESA's two statistical agencies, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the Census Bureau (Census), and the Commissioner of the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) ("the agencies") on statistical methodology and other technical matters related to the collection, tabulation, and analysis of federal economic statistics. The Committee functions solely as an advisory Committee to the senior officials of the agencies in consultation with the Committee chairperson. The Committee's responsibilities include, but are not limited to, recommending research to address important technical problems arising in federal economic statistics; identifying areas in which better coordination of the agencies' activities would be beneficial; establishing relationships with professional associations with an interest in federal economic statistics; and coordinating, in its identification of agenda items, with other existing academic advisory Committees chartered to provide agency-specific advice, for the purpose of avoiding duplication of effort.
- (4) Points of View:
 - (a) Experts: Members of the Committee are prominent experts in economics, statistics, survey methodology and behavioral science and are recognized for their scientific and professional achievements and objectivity. Members will be chosen from institutions located across the United States and will represent a range of disciplines and perspectives. The diverse membership provides for a wide range of perspectives and points of view relevant to the technical matters the Committee will address. The Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the agencies, under the coordination of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs will solicit proposals for new Committee members from knowledgeable sources within the academic, business and government communities. Final selections are based on the nominees' demonstrated achievements and knowledge as economists, statisticians, survey methodologists, and behavioral scientists, and are chosen to achieve a balanced membership across those disciplines.
 - (b) Distribution of Candidates: The Committee's membership shall be prominent experts in their fields, and recognized for their scientific and professional achievements and

objectivity.

The Committee's membership shall be economists, statisticians, survey methodologists, and behavioral scientists chosen to achieve a balanced membership across those disciplines. When it becomes necessary to identify new members of the Committee, an evaluation will be made of the current makeup of the Committee's expertise, as well as emerging needs and research, and new members will be identified based on the expertise they will bring to the Committee's discussions.

- (c) **Special Government Employees:** As official advisors who support the effective functioning of the federal government in a limited-service capacity, the Committee members will be considered "special government employees" (SGEs) and, therefore, will be subject to the ethical standards applicable to SGEs.

Other Balance Factors: Committee membership reflects expertise from economists, statisticians, survey methodologists, and behavioral scientists and will be chosen to achieve a balanced membership across those disciplines. Members are prominent experts in their fields, and recognized for their scientific and professional achievements and objectivity. Members will be chosen from institutions located across the United States and will represent a range of disciplines and perspectives. The diverse membership provides for a wide range of perspectives and points of view relevant to the technical matters the Committee will address. Appointments shall be made without discrimination on the basis of age, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or cultural, religious, or socioeconomic status. The agencies, by consensus agreement, shall appoint the chairperson annually from the Committee membership. Out of the current membership, 9 are full tenured professors from some of the most acclaimed economics, statistics, and public policy departments in the nation, including Chicago, Maryland, Michigan, MIT, Colorado, San Diego, and Yale; of these, four members are also associated with major survey research organizations. One member is from a major nonprofit public policy organization, and one is from the business sector.

(5) Candidate Identification Process:

- (a) **Describe the Process:** Individuals, groups, and / or organizations may submit nominations on behalf of an individual candidate. A summary of the candidate's qualifications (resume or curriculum vitae) must be included along with the nomination letter. Nominees must be able to actively participate in the tasks of the Committee, including, but not limited to regular meeting attendance, Committee meeting discussant responsibilities, and review of materials, as well as participation in conference calls, webinars, working groups, and special Committee activities. A thorough review of experts is undertaken, and recommendations are sought by the agency heads from agency executive staff, current or former Committee members, and other experts in the required fields of expertise. Candidates are identified from within the business, academic, and research organizations. The members will be nominated by the Department of Commerce, in consultation with the agencies, under the coordination of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, and

appointed by the Secretary.

- (b) **Identify Agency Staff:** Final determinations will be made by the Department of Commerce, in consultation with the agencies, under the coordination of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, and appointed by the Secretary, with input from the Directors of ESA's two statistical agencies, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the Census Bureau (Census), and the Commissioner of the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).
- (c) **FESAC Vacancies:** Should a Committee member be unable to complete a three-year term, a new member may be selected to complete that term for the duration of the time remaining or begin a new term of three years.
- (d) **Membership Term Limit:** Committee members serve for terms of three years and may be reappointed to any number of additional terms.
- (6) **Subcommittee Balance:** The Under Secretary for Economic Affairs may establish such Subcommittees of the members as may be necessary, subject to the provisions of FACA, the FACA implementing regulations, and applicable Department of Commerce guidance. Subcommittees must report back to the Committee and do not provide advice or work products directly to the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs. The process for determining membership balance of Subcommittees is the same as the process for the parent Committee.

Other: All appointments are made without discrimination of any kind.

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